

Istook Votes Against Gun Control Bill

Washington, D.C. -- Today, Congressman Ernest J. Istook (R-OK) voted against the gun control bill, H.R. 2122.

“No new gun control law, background check, or trigger lock would have stopped the young assassins at Columbine High School,” said Istook. **“Adding more gun control is like putting burned toast back in the toaster. It’s been done. It’s been overdone. We need to re-pledge our allegiance to the values that America has always cherished. When we work on the heart, then we’ll have more helping hands, and fewer fingers on the trigger.”**

The measure would have gone beyond instant background checks of gun buyers at gun shows, and would have mandated that every gun buyer must also buy a gun lock, whether they need it or not. It used a phony definition of “assault weapons” to try to restrict juveniles who may use a rifle for hunting.

“Parents with children at home should consider trigger locks or other locks to prevent accidents,” Istook said, **“but that’s not a right reason to make it illegal to buy a gun unless you also buy a lock. Those who need them can and should buy them; those who don’t should not be forced to do so.”**

Some persons contended that the House should pass the bill so it would have a better negotiating position with the Senate, which passed a much stricter bill. Istook disagreed. **“As we have a House-Senate conference, I don’t want the House to start from a position closer to the heavy-handed Senate bill. If there are going to be compromises by the Senate, then they need to come a long way toward us, including adopting the cultural provisions the House approved on a bill yesterday.”**